

Toolbox Talk Details		
Title	B04 - Skin protection	
Reason	Dermatitis is a skin condition caused by contact with something that irritates the skin or causes an allergic reaction. Some types of dermatitis are so severe that sufferers must give up work or change their trade.	
Outline	This talk covers hazards to the skin and precautions to protect your skin.	
Contact hazards to skin		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mineral oils, including fuel oils and mould oils, can give you bad skin conditions, oil acne or even cancer. 2. Prolonged skin contact with oily rags in overall pockets can cause testicular cancer. 3. Chemicals, including alkalis, acids and chromates, can penetrate the skin, causing ulcers and dermatitis. 4. If you have a site nurse, they should be informed. 5. Solvents and degreasers (such as thinners) dissolve natural oils in skin, leaving it open to infection. 6. Tar, pitch and bitumen products can cause blisters and oil acne. They can also cause tar warts, leading to cancer. 7. Epoxy resins, glass fibre and some hardwood dusts can irritate the skin, which can lead to dermatitis. 8. Extremes of sunshine, temperature and humidity make the skin more susceptible to dermatitis and other skin problems. 		
Precautions to protect your skin		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comply with your employer's safe system of work. 2. Avoid skin contact with hazardous substances and wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE). 3. Keep your skin clean and use after-wash skin cream. 4. Keep your workplace clean. 5. Get first aid for cuts and grazes and keep them covered. 6. Do not use abrasives or solvents to clean your skin. 7. Do not let synthetic resins or glue harden on your skin. 8. If you experience skin contact with hazardous substances, periodically examine the affected part of your skin for signs of damage. 9. Never wear oil-contaminated clothes next to your skin. 10. Seek professional medical advice, if necessary. 		
Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	